

Message Text

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14-12

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0244

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS OF MAY 27, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE MAY 27 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE NETHERLANDS REP, UK REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER AND POLISH REP STRULAK. OWING TO TWO LONG, ABSTRACT PRESENTATIONS BY KHLESTOV, THE SESSION WAS A LONG ONE. KHLESTOV CLAIMED THE WEST WAS DELIBERATELY OVEREMPHASIZING THE DATA ISSUE AND RESTATED EASTERN REASONS FOR REFUSING TO DISCUSS DATA AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, UNTIL AFTER RESOLUTION OF ISSUES SUCH AS WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET AND WHAT TYPE OF FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED. POLISH REP MADE STRONG ATTACK ON WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH AS

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PERMITTING AN UNCONTROLLED ARMS RACE IN TACTICAL NUCLEAR

WEAPONS, AIRCRAFT, AND GROUND FORCE ARMAMENTS.

2. KHLESTOV LED OFF WITH LONG STATEMENT THAT EAST HAD ALREADY ANSWERED SERIES OF WESTERN QUESTIONS POSED IN LAST PLENARY OF SPRING ROUND AND IN FIRST INFORMAL OF SUMMER ROUND CONCERNING TOTAL EFFECTS OF POSSIBLE REDUCTION AGREEMENTS. (THESE QUESTIONS WERE DESIGNED TO DRAW EAST OUT ON WESTERN CONTENTION THAT EAST WOULD GAIN MORE THAN WEST FROM REDUCTION LIMITATIONS OWING TO THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET FORCES IN THEIR HOME TERRITORY, WHICH WAS ADJACENT TO THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS, WOULD NOT BE LIMITED, WHEREAS ALL NATO FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA WOULD BE.) KHLESTOV CLAIMED THAT, IF ANY COMPARISON OF EFFECTS WAS TO BE MADE, CONSEQUENCES FOR EASTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WHOSE TERRITORY WAS LOCATED IN THE AREA WOULD BE THE SAME AS FOR THOSE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE SAME SITUATION. SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENTLY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION, KHLESTOV BRANCHED OFF ON A LONG EXCURSION ON WHY THE MAIN JOB OF NEGOTIATORS WAS TO FORMULATE POTENTIAL OBLIGATIONS RATHER THAN TO ENGAGE IN JOINT ANALYSIS OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES.

3. NETHERLANDS REP REBUTTED EASTERN ARGUMENTS REPEATED BY KHLESTOV THAT ALLEGED WESTERN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGE WERE THE REASON FOR LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. CZECHOSLOVAK REP GAVE PRESENTATION WHICH IN ESSENCE REPEATED THIS CHARGE. UK REP TOLD KHLESTOV THAT, ON THE BASIS OF THE LATTER'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, KHLESTOV APPARENTLY AGREED WITH WEST THAT THE TOTAL EFFECTS OF ANY AGREEMENT, NOT ONLY REDUCTIONS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. POLISH REP MADE A STRONG, WELL-PRESENTED ATTACK ON WESTERN POSITION AS LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR AN ARMS RACE IN CENTRAL EUROPE OWING TO WESTERN REFUSAL TO REDUCE AND LIMIT TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AIR FORCES AND EVEN GROUND FORCE ARMAMENTS OTHER THAN SOVIET TANKS. US REP MADE CASE FOR DATA EXCHANGE. IN RESPONSE, KHLESTOV MADE UNYIELDING PRESENTATION OPPOSING DATA EXCHANGE AT THIS STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.
REMAINDER OF REPORT SENT VIA AIRGRAM.RESOR

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